



Calendar of Events

A Knight to Remember Dinner and Auction	Chess for Success State Tournament	Regional Tournaments	Practice Tournaments
at the Governor Hotel	at the Oregon Convention Center	Updates at: www.chessforsuccess.org	in Portland, OR
April, 9 th 2008	March 22 nd , 2008	March 21 st , 2008	TBA
December 1 st , 2007	December 8 th , 2007		

Chess for Success Chess Club Sponsors

At the beginning of this school year, Chess for Success asked members of the community to consider sponsoring our chess clubs. We are very pleased to announce that eight individuals, families and foundations participated in this program and we would like to thank the following generous Chess Club Sponsors:

Phil and Doreen Margolin
Mrs. Marge Foundation
Tri-Star Search and Staffing

Truman and Kristin Collins
Bill and Allyson Harris
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Ann Labé

To learn more about sponsoring a chess club, please contact Andie Petkus at 503-295-1230.



Ann Labé wearing the chess club T-shirt for the Vernon Knight Owls team she sponsored.



CHESS FOR SUCCESS

Our Mission: "To help children develop skills necessary for success in school and life by learning chess."



Summer 2007

Celebrating



40 Years of Statewide Chess Competition!



Chess for Success hosted the annual State Chess Tournament on March 16 and 17, 2007. Founded in 1967 as the OMSI State Chess Tournament, Chess for Success has been organizing the State Tournament for grades K-12 since 1998. We are proud of Oregon's long heritage of encouraging children to play chess.

Chess for Success organized 23 regional tournaments this year and involved students from every county in Oregon. Two of these tournaments set regional attendance records. At this year's state tournament, 288 individuals came to the Oregon Convention Center on Friday and 290 team members came on

Saturday to test their skills against kids from across the state. Chess for Success is proud to recognize this year's first-place winners:

Team winners:

- K - 5: Jacob Wismer Elementary
- 6 - 8: West Hills Christian School

Individual winners:

- K - 4: Benjamin Pikus; Mason Dirickson; Chloe Smith
- 5th: Mitchel Button; Eddie Wang; Austin Nguyen
- 6th: Alex Piatski; Kevin Wang; Mitchell Linegar
- 7th: Joel Porter
- 8th: Daniel Gay
- High School: Daniel Friesen

Featured Club: Bridger Bolts

By Bridger Bolts Chess Club Coach,
Ben Needham

This is my tenth year coaching chess at Bridger School. From my first year here I've endeavored to instill a culture of chess playing.

I regularly talked up chess at school assemblies, provided chess sets for all the classrooms, helped get the school a giant chess set for the playground, and during rainy days my room is set up for chess playing.

By my second year I had 75 to 80 kids at each chess club meeting. This was way too many children to manage and I noticed that the younger children were intimidated by the more competitive older students. So the next year I split the whole program into four pieces: Chess Academy for learning how to play, Primary Chess Club for kindergarten through second graders to enjoy chess in a noncompetitive, safe environment, Intermediate Chess Club for third through fifth graders, and the Bridger "Bolts" Chess Team for more competitive, skilled players. Most years I have roughly 40% of the school's students involved in these programs.



Bridger Bolts Chess Team at Regionals

Over the years, the school's chess team has been enormously successful and this year's group, led by strong fifth graders who came up through the program, was no exception. The Bolts won their regional meet and went on to place second at the CFS Oregon State Team Championship. In May, the team won the CFS City of Portland Tournament.

To see my players enjoy their achievements this year has been satisfying. I was struck by something obvious that hadn't



occurred to me when a fifth grader, holding a sizable team trophy, said, "Mr. Needham, when we were in kindergarten, you taught us all how to play chess."

Contact us:

Please contact us if you have any questions or suggestions. We are always happy to hear from you. If you would rather receive your newsletter by email, please email us and let us know!

Phone: 503-295-1230 • **Fax:** 502-295-4098

Email: info@chessforsuccess.org

Website: www.chessforsuccess.org

Address: 1200 NW Naito Pkwy, #270
Portland, OR 97209

In Memory of

Doreen Stamm Margolin

Chess for Success lost a very special friend in January of this year. Doreen Margolin was the wife of our Board President, Phil Margolin. Doreen truly cared about education and children. She was a generous supporter of Chess for Success and she will be greatly missed.



In the News

Willamette Week Give! Guide

featured Chess for Success as one of the local nonprofits that their readers could select for a year-end donation. Chess for Success would like to thank the editor, Richard Meeker, and his staff for again including Chess for Success in this project! We received donations from 34 people and 23 of these were first-time donors to us. We were given a total of \$5,351 through this program.

The Oregonian Metro Section

once again ran a special report on the State Chess Tournament on March 16, 2007. They featured Mary Dang, a 13-year-old Chess for Success chess club member from Gregory Heights Middle School. The results of the State Tournament were published in the March 20th edition of the paper.

The Business Journal

listed Chess for Success board member Peter Kwong as one of the "Forty Under 40" to watch in Portland. In this article, Peter talks about his commitment to Chess for Success and its mission.

The Mid-County Memo

featured one of the largest Chess for Success regional tournaments ever on the cover of their April 2007 edition. Nearly 200 students participated at the regional tournament that took place at Portland Christian Junior/Senior High. The best players from this tournament qualified to play at the State Tournament.

The Asian Reporter

listed the Knight to Remember Auction in their April 3, 2007 edition.

The Oregonian's editorial writer David Sarasohn

used his April 19, 2007 column to report on a press conference that Congressman David Wu hosted to discuss the research that was done on the Chess for Success program by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory.

Oregon Public Broadcasting

also covered Congressman Wu's press conference which was held at Hayhurst Elementary. A dozen students sat behind Rep. Wu while he gave his presentation and not one of them looked up the entire time - they were so engrossed in their chess matches.

The Multnomah Village Post

ran a long article about Congressman Wu's press conference on the front page of their May edition.

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Non-Discrimination Policy

Our policy of non-discrimination states that at Chess for Success, one of our core objectives is to maintain a program in which every person can achieve his or her full potential without being impeded by discrimination or harassment based on race, gender, national origin, age, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, disability or any other status or characteristic that is protected by law. Our practices and policies are intended to impress upon every program director, participant and contractor the seriousness of this commitment and to strongly encourage these individuals to report any conduct that they perceived to be discriminatory or harassing in nature to the Executive Director or President.

The Chess for Success policy of non-discrimination requires more than just obeying the law, it requires that all program directors, participants and contractors conduct themselves with maturity, professionalism and a positive attitude in all that they do at Chess for Success.

Kudos to the Coaches!



Top Right: Executive Director Julie Young presents a recognition award to Katrina Halverson.



Top Left: Woodland Elementary Principal Lemil Speed chats with Ockley-Green Principal Joseph Malone.



Bottom Right: Mooberry Elementary Chess Club Coach, Dovina Greco, talks about how important Chess Club is for her students.

Every year Chess for Success holds a party to celebrate the work of our fabulous coaches. This year's Coaches' Dinner took place at the McMenemy's Kennedy School. The principals from our schools and our Giving Society Members were also invited to come congratulate the coaches and hear them talk about the amazing effect chess has on the kids in their clubs.

Katrina Halverson was given special recognition for her commitment to Chess for Success at this dinner. She had been the chess coach at Beach for several years and helped the club grow to nearly 70 members. This year, her older son moved up to Hosford Middle School and she started coaching the club there as well. She now coaches two clubs twice a week -- as a volunteer! Thank you, Katrina!

Ricardo's Success Story:

As shared with Chess for Success by Program Director, Paula Wade.

Ricardo is a plain, very shy, never-a-problem third grader. He can neither read nor write in English or Spanish. His abilities seemed so low and he was so shy that his teachers decided to not have him even try to take the State Bench Mark tests.

Ricardo was also a member of the chess club. In January, the chess coach decided to have a round robin chess tournament to help decide which players to take to the regional tournament. As she began looking over the results, she noticed that Ricardo had beaten every third grader, every fourth grader and several fifth graders. She discussed this with Ricardo's teacher and it was decided that Ricardo should be given the State Bench Mark Test for math and that it should be read to him.

Ricardo scored at the 92nd percentile! His teachers, his parents, and even Ricardo, will never see him the same way again. Chess created the opportunity for Ricardo to "be discovered."



Chess for Success Supporter Bonnie Pavel helps judge the T-shirt contest at the State Tournament.

City of Portland Tournament 2007

The City of Portland tournament was held at the World Trade Center on May 5th. Players came from as far away as Eugene and Monmouth to compete in this annual tournament sponsored by Chess for Success. 177 students competed for individual and team titles. Chess for Success teams from Bridger Elementary and Hosford Middle schools took first place in the elementary and middle school divisions. Chess for Success teams took the top seven places in the elementary school division and we are very proud of our players!

Congressman David Wu Reveals Results of the Recent Study

By Phillip Margolin

On April 12, 2007, United States Congressman David Wu held a press conference at CFS school Hayhurst Elementary to announce the results of the first two years of a five-year study of the Chess for Success program being conducted by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory. Among the results discussed by the Congressman and other speakers were:

- 91.7% of Chess for Success kids met or exceeded the state standards in reading for 2006 as compared to 86.7% of elementary school children state wide;
- 93% of Chess for Success kids met or exceeded the math standards compared to 88.3% of the children state wide;
- the program is excellent at keeping high-performing children involved in school and accomplishes its goal of training children to be patient and analytical in problem-solving situations;
- Chess for Success has an impact on increasing the interest of girls in analytical problem solving skills leading to an increase in their academic achievement and self-esteem.



Rep. Wu with Hayhurst Chess Club Kids

How You Can Support Chess for Success:

Chess for Success tries to make it as convenient as possible for the people who appreciate the work we do to support this program. If there is anything we can do to help make it easier to make a donation, please let us know. Some of the current ways to give include mailing a check or calling the office with your credit card number. We also accept:

Online Donations:

Go to www.chessforsuccess.org and click on "Donations" on the home page.

Monthly Gifts:

Through our website, or by calling our office with a debit or credit card, you can set up a monthly donation to Chess for Success. Sometimes it is easier to make small monthly gifts rather than one large annual gift.

Gifts of Stock:

We do accept gifts of stock. Talk to your financial advisor about advantages that may be gained from donating appreciated stock.

Planned Gifts:

Please consider naming Chess for Success as a beneficiary of your will, insurance policy, or retirement account.

Donations directly from your IRA:

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 has made it possible for individuals age 70 and ½ or older to donate to charities directly from their IRAs. In the past, the individual had to take the distribution as income before a donation could be given. Your financial advisor or accountant should be able to help you figure out if donating directly from your IRA provides tax advantages for you.

Another Unforgettable “Knight to Remember” Dinner and Auction



Phil Margolin with Gerda Eiseman and her son Ron Eiseman.

A True Friend to Chess for Success: Gerda Eiseman

Frank Eiseman’s widow, Gerda Eiseman, has been supporting Chess for Success since the very beginning. She helped out with various tasks as the program was being founded and has continued to actively play a role in the success of Chess for Success. She makes generous annual donations, sponsors each event, attends board meetings, presents gifts to the coaches each year at the annual dinner and participates in anything the staff or board requests of her. In honor of her continued efforts on behalf of Chess for Success, we have renamed the annual award that we give out at the auction to include Gerda. The award, which recognizes exceptional commitment to Chess for Success, will now be known as the “Frank and Gerda Eiseman Award.”

Chess for Success would like to say “thank you” to all of the people who came out on a school night to raise money for our program! The \$58,000 raised that evening will help Chess for Success increase the number of chess clubs we can set up at low-income schools. More clubs means more kids can participate in an after-school program that teaches them the skills they need to succeed.

King Arthur and Queen Guinevere (as played by Dan Murphy and Sharon Maroney from the Broadway Rose Theater Company) hosted the evening and made sure that each of their loyal subjects had an opportunity to purchase one of the fabulous auction items such as vacations in Bali, Mexico and Black Butte as well as lovely jewelry by Tiffany & Co.

A special thanks goes to our Sponsors and Table Hosts who made sure the room was filled with generous supporters. We would also like to thank the many local businesses who donated auction items. The next time you visit one of these businesses, please thank them for supporting Chess for Success.



Auction Chair Tonya Parker (right), with her husband Jeff Parker



Richard E. Roy

Richard E. Roy Receives the Frank Eiseman Award

The Frank Eiseman Award was presented to Richard E. (Dick) Roy in honor of his efforts as a founder of Chess for Success. Dick Roy was a volunteer chess club coach for 12 years. In 1989, the team he coached at Wilson High School won the National High School Chess Team Championship. This win inspired Dick to create a chess program for kids at low-income schools. With help from Frank Eiseman and Phil Margolin, he designed a chess club program and submitted a grant proposal to Meyer Memorial Trust who fully funded a four-year pilot program at nine primary schools. In 1992, the Portland Chess Project was created and as it began to expand, the name changed to Chess for Success. Chess for Success now serves 2,500 students in 64 schools in 10 school districts. The commitment of people like Dick Roy, Phil Margolin and Frank Eiseman has meant that kids in Oregon have a chance to learn chess – and a chance to feel good about themselves while learning a game they love.

Some Chess Club t-shirts



Kids in the clubs choose the color and design of their shirts each year.

Thank you again for a great event. The kids had a lot of fun. We didn’t walk away with a trophy, but it was a great experience for our three novices on the team and the three “old timers” still walked away happy with their own personal results...

Thanks again for your dedication. ~ Theresa

A Knight to Remember Sponsors

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